

THE
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
TO THE
LOOE URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL
FOR THE YEAR 1914.

LISKEARD :
PHILP & SONS, PRINTERS, STATIONERS, &c.

LOOE URBAN DISTRICT.

AREA 547 ACRES.

POPULATION 2718 (Census 1911).

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE *MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,* FOR THE YEAR 1914.

To the Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the health and sanitary state of the district.

The district is situated on the South-East Coast of Cornwall in the Western limit of Whitsand Bay. Fishing and the curing of fish are its chief industries. During the summer months it is patronized by a large number of visitors, and in normal times derives much of its prosperity from this source. This year has been marked by a serious falling off in the number of our visitors. The war cloud burst just as the season was commencing, and the patronage which was expected to exceed all previous years was curtailed, almost suddenly, to a vanishing point.

The health of the district has been remarkably good. There has been very little infectious disease and no notifiable disease has taken an epidemic form.

The summer again proved to be a very dry one. From the end of July to the end of September very little rain fell. The water supply showed no sign of failure and was uninterrupted in its delivery.

Our water carriage system of drainage, discharging at intervals in the river stream, has been extended by an important length of main drain at the West Looe end of the bridge. The New Drill Hall has been connected with the sewer in Upper Beech Terrace. In Shutta the eight new houses have been connected with the Shutta main drain.

The house refuse has been removed from all districts twice weekly. The scavenging of the streets has been well and systematically carried out. The tarring of the main thoroughfares in the spring made a marked diminution in the dust nuisance of a dry summer.

The Sanitary Inspection of the district was completed in the early months of the year, which resulted in eight statutory and two informal notices being served.

The sanitary condition and water supply of the Council Schools are efficient and sufficient. The elementary schools have not been closed for any infectious outbreak of disease.

The number of Dwelling Houses inspected under and for the purpose of Section 17 of the Act of 1909.	89
Number of Dwelling Houses inspected considered to be dangerous to health and unfit for human habitation.	10
The number of representations made to the local authority with a view of making closing orders.	10
The number of closing orders made	Nil
The number of dwelling houses defects remedied without making closing orders.	10
The general character of defects found.	Minor Sanitary Defects.

The milk supply as to wholesomeness has left nothing to be desired. The Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops have been regularly inspected and found clean and well conducted.

The Slaughter Houses have complied with the sanitary requirements and have been found to be well kept. The Bakehouses when inspected have been found clean and in good sanitary order.

The contemplated provision of housing accommodation for the working classes has not been brought to realization. The Church End area has been very greatly improved by the cementing of Chapel Street. I consider that an extension of this paving to the whole of this district to be a greater necessity than the building of houses for the working classes at the present time.

There is no hospital accommodation for infectious disease. Advances have been received from Liskeard, made under the L.G.B. Circular, to provide an infectious hospital in conjunction with neighbouring authorities. But, the business aspect of the scheme has not come before you in a way that is likely to further the object in view.

The work of the Inspector of Nuisances was interrupted on the outbreak of war, your officer being called away for military duties. On the arrival of troops in the district his services were requisitioned from the Military Authorities, and he returned to supervise the very important sanitary arrangements in connection with the troops.

In the first week in December the 13th Battalion of the Worcester Regiment was sent to your district for training purposes. Considering that the advent of these troops was not anticipated, and that the instructions issued by the War Office and circulated by the L.G.B. were not complied with by those responsible for the military occupation of your district, it is a matter of congratulation that no breakdown in the general and sanitary arrangements occurred.

There has been no prevalence of acute infectious disease. Five cases of Scarlet Fever were notified between March and July.

Only five new cases of tubercular disease were notified. Three cases of phthisis proved fatal. The houses were cleaned and disinfected. Bacteriological examinations were made in eight cases, resulting in three positive and five negative reports.

Neither rickets, acute rheumatism, diarrhœa, enteritis, or pneumonia have been prevalent, and there have been no outbreaks of food poisoning.

The following is the list of administration of local Acts and general adoptive Acts in force in the district.

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| 1. New Streets and Buildings. | 4. Cemetery. |
| 2. Nuisances. | 5. Notification of Infectious Disease. |
| 3. Slaughter Houses. | 6. Dairies, Cowsheds & Milkshop Order. |

VITAL STATISTICS.

Rateable value about ...	£8,664	Birth Rate (per 1,000 inhabitants)	15.33
New Dwelling Houses erected	13	Zymotic Death Rate ...	Nil.
Number of separate occupiers	750	Infantile Mortality (per 1,000	
Average Inhabitants per house	4.02	births) ...	71.42
Death Rate (per 1,000 inhabitants)	13.14		

MORTALITY.—The registered number of deaths were 36—14 males and 22 females.

The chief causes of death were as follows :—

Phthisis	3	Bright's Disease	2
Cancer	3	Congenital Debility	3
Heart Disease	4	Old Age	3
Violent Deaths	3	Other Defined Diseases	13
Bronchitis	2		

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—Three deaths were registered under 1 year, all due to premature birth or congenital debility.

BIRTHS.—There were 42 births, viz.:—27 males, 15 females. There were no illegitimate children born.

During this year of terrible war and national anxiety I feel thankful that I am able to lay these satisfactory details before you as to the state and health of your district. I thank you for the support you have always given me in my official work.

Your obedient servant,

J. EUSTACE WEBB, M.B., M.O.H.

